

Weekly Column for March 3, 2005

Tonight is a very exciting night in the City of Troy. After years of planning, spending thousands upon thousands of dollars, and making change after change the City Council will vote on the rezoning of the Hoosick Street Corridor.

Last year the City Council passed a measure that re-zoned the South Troy Waterfront in an effort to jumpstart development of that area. I commend them for that work, it is a zoning change will be the catalyst in ongoing efforts to clean up Brownfield's and redevelop the acres of underutilized waterfront land. Tonight they will consider and equally important piece of legislation, and our first giant step in 2005, Hoosick Street Rezoning.

The corridor is currently the second most heavily traveled road in the Capital District, and we have long underutilized it. It is no longer the residential area it once prospered as. Councilman Art Judge mentioned yesterday that he remembers when you used to be able pull up to Ned Abbott's on the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and run in to get the newspaper. Not anymore.

Instead this thoroughfare has the potential to be a great generator of tax revenue for years to come. As I said in my State of the City Address, whether it is hotels, shops, or medical offices, we will soon collect on what we have been sorely missing out on. People commuting to work on a daily basis, skiers heading to Vermont for a weekend, traffic from the Saratoga racing season, and leaf peepers in the fall- all of them drive right through our city.

All of these sections of people have used Troy for years without ever really understanding what it is the City has to offer. With this new zoning in place, we will be one step closer to becoming the place where people stop to get a bite to eat, or the place where people spend the night and tour the city, or perhaps a place where people go when they need something in a hurry. That will be a dream come true. It is a dream that becomes one step closer to reality after tonight.

I want to thank the City's Planning Department for continued hard work on the project, as well as the City Council for pushing forward with the rezoning.

Thank you, and as usual if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, please do not hesitate to call me at 270-4401 or e-mail at the Mayor's Office.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy